

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for obtaining a mixture of solid components ~~(21a, 21b, ... 21n)~~ in a predetermined ratio stored in containers ~~(31)~~ having a bottom opening ~~(36)~~ and, ~~in a predetermined ratio~~ comprising providing for each component a fluidized flow ~~(24a, 24b, ... 24n)~~ by injecting air into each container near the bottom opening ~~(36)~~ to render the component flowable, said flow ~~(24a, 24b, ... 24n)~~ at a predetermined individual flow rate corresponding to the ratio of said component in the mixture; conveying each flow ~~(24a, 24b, ... 24n)~~ to the inlet ~~(39)~~ of a static mixer ~~(32)~~ exclusively by gravity, the mixer continuously producing at an outlet ~~(38)~~ a flow of the mixture ~~(26)~~.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: dispersing the flows inside the mixer by causing the flows to pass at least one static obstacle ~~(44)~~ inserted in the flows.
3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 2~~, further comprising monitoring an effective flow rate of one selected component of the mixture; and adjusting in real time the individual flow rates of each other components based on said effective flow rate.
4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said mixture includes a cement and further comprising blending the mixture with water to form a slurry; pumping the slurry into an annulus of a well.
5. (currently amended) An apparatus for preparing a mixture of solid components in a predetermined ratio comprising a hopper ~~(31)~~ for each individual components, said hopper including lateral walls ~~(41)~~ and a bottom ~~(42)~~ with an opening ~~(36)~~ and further comprising a grid ~~(41)~~ extending from the lower portion of the lateral walls ~~(40)~~ to the opening ~~(36)~~, and means ~~(43)~~ for introducing air into the gap between the hopper bottom and the grid; said grid permeable to air but not to the component stored in the hopper,

- means ~~(35)~~ for adjusting the flow rate of each component flowing from the opening ~~(36)~~, for adjusting the flow rate of each component flowing from the opening ~~(36)~~ based on the ratio of each component in the mixture, a static mixer ~~(32)~~ having an inlet ~~(39)~~ into which all individual flows are conveyed exclusively by gravity, said mixer ~~(32)~~ continuously producing at an outlet ~~(38)~~ a flow of mixture.
6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said means ~~(35)~~ for adjusting said individual generated flow rate based include knife gate valves.
  7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the vertical walls ~~(40)~~ of the hopper ~~(31)~~ form an angle ( $\alpha$ ) to the vertical ranging from 0 to 23°.
  8. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the mixer ~~(32)~~ includes dispersing means ~~(44)~~ statically mounted inside the main body so as to present an obstacle to the global flow entering the inlet ~~(39)~~.
  9. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claims 5 ~~or 6~~, further comprising: a Man Machine Interface ~~(52)~~ to input a mixture recipe; processing means to calculate for each component of the mixture the predetermined flow rate from a ratio of the components in the mixture recipe.
  10. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising: a sensor system ~~(64<sub>a</sub>, 64<sub>b</sub>)~~ to measure a value of an effective flow rate of a selected component of the mixture, the sensor system producing a sensor signal indicative of the value of the effective flow rate of said component; an adjustable valve ~~(66<sub>a</sub>, 66<sub>b</sub>)~~, the effective flow rate of the component being adjusted depending on an opening of the adjustable valve; and wherein the adjustable valve and the sensor define a loop ~~(62<sub>a</sub>, 62<sub>b</sub>)~~, and the flow rate of the component being regulated to the predetermined flow rate using the sensor signal.